

BEHEMOTH

● Loch Ness: There were several sightings of the creature recently. In August, a Dutch couple videotaped "a large body moving just below the surface...there was quite a large head and a long tail, also on each side of the body...flippers." Steve Feltham and Aidrian Shine identified it as disturbance caused by wind. On June 27, 91, 3.28 am, Margaret MacLennan saw the thing "steadily ploughing its way west (from Dores?)...it was around 6 ft in length...Its skin looked crocodile-like...I would say it was propelled by flipper action." The witness has had earlier sightings. A seal was also seen at Dochfour and Fort Augustus in August (an explanation for MacLennan's sighting?). Also last summer, "Topcat" had a sonar contact off F. Augustus, which may have been a large fish. On Oct 13, 90, Helen Cross spotted a hump in Urquhart Bay. More details on all these reports can be found in "Nessletter" 107 & 106.

A new German tabloid, produced in Holland, is "NEUE SPEZIAL", the German version of Britain's Sunday Sport and the US Weekly World News. They are very tongue in cheek, and their # 8 (March) had the surprising story Nessie had been caught alive on Jan 22, 92, by a team led by a Dr Genet and the German biologist Dr Otto Krüger. They had lured the monster into a steel trap after 32 months of preparation. Two doctored pictures using paintings of dinosaurs are reproduced, as well as the authentic report of the diver who first touched the 20 m, 20 ton creature. Rip Hepple, in Nessletter 107, quotes the version as given in the weekly World News, both agree in most details (the German version being a translation, I suppose) but the date of the capture - the US version states it happened in Dec 91.

The "Stern" (March 13, p.150-154) had an article on the makers of the "Neue Spezial" who admit they print silly stories they get from readers and translate their anglosaxon originals. Editor Peter J Muller, 45, told the Stern the next Nessie headline will appear early in April revealing the monster to be female and pregnant. However, my favorite headline in this paper was the classic "fur coat eats woman!" (#6)

● Bibliography: Sightings and foto of monster in Lake Ikeda, Japan, which can easily be identified as boat wake, Fortean Times 61, p.13 - Lake Khayr, Siberia, monster story (dinosaur with dorsal fin, seen by biologists, also from plane, frozen newts come alive after melting, etc. - basically, a story which originated in the 60s (reported by Costello and Kolosimo at the time) which is reprinted about every 5 years, Science & Vie, Jan 92, p.91 (credit: F de Sarre, who thinks it might be a catfish), also in Fortean Times 62, p.8. The same issue of Fortean Times also has a large interview with Doc Shiels (pp. 48 - 53) yet precious little about the well-reasoned claims that Doc faked all his and other monster photos too.

ISIS

● There is humanoid marine life...at least I have a bunch of reports which claim so. First of all, Australia. Die Rheinpfalz, Feb 21, had a large report on Australian aborigines land rights claims, The locals claim two dreamtime creatures, a siren and the "carpet serpent" dwell where there are now the mining industries of Wiluna. The Rheinpfalz article implies the creatures and their sacred sleeping place were invented to cash in from the whites, but this may only be the usual racist disregard for all that we good white people fail to understand.

● The NEue Spezial, # 8 (the only one I have, or I could shower you with sightings, I suppose), also reports about a "deep sea monster terrorising sunbathers at Rio Beach." A biped creature came out of the sea and threatened to kill the bathers with a rusty harpoon. Guillermo Goncalvez, an eye-witness, said: "It resembled a giant frog" It was about 5 ft in height and looked quite unfriendly". The monster walked up and down the beach for 15 minutes. The bathers, which had fled, observed from their secure shelters how the thing, after roaring, returned into the sea. A police spokesperson: "We do not have the faintest idea what this could have been". Experts say its not the first time the monster has been spotted at the beach. Does anybody know if this is a completely invented story or one of the many fantastic tales that reach us from South America? It may have been modelled on Jack Arnold's Creature from the black Lagoon.

- Istanbul: "A mummy said to be that of a creature half-human, half-crocodile was found in a wooden chest at the Topkapi palace over the weekend, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported. The upper part of the mummy, comprising a head and arms, belonged to a child of around seven or eight, while the lower part was that of a medium-sized crocodile, Carbon-14 testing had failed to determine the creature's age. The find is to be put on public display. A popularly-believed story about the mummy was that the son of an Egyptian dignitary had fallen into the Nile and been swallowed by a crocodile. When the crocodile was killed it was found to contain the boy's body. It was then sent to the Topkapi palace, residence of the Ottoman sultans, as an object of curiosity". (Saudi Gazette, 4 March, p.16; taz 4 March, p.20). I had a story some years ago in Bilk about an alleged mermaid mummy found in Sochi, Black Sea, and treated it lightly, as it came from some American tabloid. I pointed out, however, that, as mermaid-like gods and goddesses were venerated in the whole Mediterranean area (see Isis, Oaness, etc.) this mummy could have been a "jenny hanniver" version of an aquatic god. Perhaps there was such an tradition (ancient Greek writers mention it) and the croc-man is but a late version of that long line of faked marine gods.

- Tanzania: F de Sarre sent me a clipping a book by French ufologist Guy Tarde: Terre, Planète sous contrôle, Nice: Alain Lefeuvre 1980, p.66/67 about a merman caught in Tanzania in May 1975. In fact, this is a well-known case, published widely in the newspapers at that time, and in Fortean Times and Pursuit too, I believe, but was referred to then as "African Nessie". It had many arms and fingers and a grotesque head and proved to be some well known troical fish.

- Bibliography: A TV feature on the theory of man's aquatic past, on German regional TV NORD 3, on March 30; a new article by F de Sarre on initial bipedalism, in EFODON NEWS, Feb 92 (an ancient-astronauts magazine).

LOST SANDS AND SUNKEN CITIES

- Japan: A part of beach 200 m long and 180 m wide in the Tokushima district of Western Japan vanished in the night of 24/25. March being washed away by the sea. 4000 m² simply vanished, leaving a 2m cliff falling directly into the sea (Die Rheinpfalz, March 27).

- Lake Constance: After the discovery of a painted submarine cave in France (F de Sarre wrote saing he believed the faboulous monster depicted there to be Heuvelman's Longneck, which I doubt - I believe it is an imaginary creature) German archaeologists discovered a sunken neolithic house while diving off Ludwigshafen in L Constance. The paintings on the wall of the house, said to be built 3850 BC, show various patterns, angles, dots and triangles. Modelled in clay are live-sized female breasts (submarine breast could refer to my Isis section...) The house is said to have had a religious significance- Germany's oldest temple? Certainly a most exiting discovery, dubbed "stone age pornography" by some papers. Die Rheinpfalz 26 March; Süddeutsche Zeitung 28.3,p.13; Frankfurter Rundschau.28.3.p.20; Berliner Zeitung 28 March,p.32; Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung 28 March, p.17)

USO

- Russia: It appeared as if the mysterious submarines were back, only this time hitt-ing Russia. SWF 3 radio, on Feb 15, reported that, on Feb 11, the periscope of a submerging Russian was damaged by some mysterious craft at Murmansk, Kola Peninsula. The Süddeutsche Zeitung, Feb 17, p.7f, had basically the same story, adding that the secred sub fled from the site of impact, but traces of it remained on the damaged Russian one. Later in the week, the US admitted it had been one of their submarines, but that the incident had taken place in international waters, not Russian territory. (Rheinpfalz 19 Feb.) This all strengthens my conviction that the Swedish "mystery subs" were mainly NATO craft (one of the reasons they were never seriously forced to submerge). It also sheds new light on the many Irish fishing trawlers sunk by mysterious submarines (some of which were shown to be NATO vessels). In Sept 91, an inquiry was opened into the fate of the vessel "Polaris" which was sunk in a "net incident" 3 years ago - i.e. the net had caught a mystery sub, which dived, destroying the trawler. (ITV Scotland News, Sept 13. - or was it a Polaris vessel that sunk the ship? I can't read my note).

This is all for today, again, I have to keep back many notes on whale strandings and big sharks. As usual, please send in your clips and opinions - especially on the increasinly more complex topic of mermaid sightings/tradition/ ufonauts etc.